

PSCAC Meeting Minutes

14 December 2005

Members Present:

Andy Kelemen	Gayle Fisher Stewart
Mike Israel	Buddy Daniels
Steve Cavallo	Cindy Creamer, Chief of Police, City of Takoma Park, MD
Darrel Morgan, CUC-WHA	

Guest:

Sgt., CUC

Andy opened the meeting at 1848 hrs.

Andy directed the committee's attention to an article in the Wash Post about College Park and Bowie MD wishing to start their own police departments. Chief Creamer clarified that Bowie will be phasing this plan in over the next few years.

Andy directed the committee's attention to the item in last month's minutes in particular in regards to the question of Ballistic vests. Chief Creamer noted that TPPD does not use any vests of the type mentioned in the papers as having safety problems..

Last month's minutes were read and approved.

Chief Creamer's Report to the Committee

Chief Creamer noted that TPPD has moved into the new space in the Community Center. She also noted that this space is smaller than the space in the old location. Chief Creamer announced that TPPD successfully completed the accreditation on-site visit. She noted that TPPD expects to gain accreditation in March 2006. Chief Creamer stressed the need to add staff in order to best keep up with the lengthy and time consuming accreditation process. She noted that TPPD deployed high visibility patrols in the Old Town area. This was in response to residents' concerns about increasing crime at the time change in fall. She noted that robberies and crime does NOT increase at the end of day light savings time in spite of this supposed "fact".

Cindy (the Chief) noted that residents and PSCAC members may register wireless device to receive emergency alert data at [HTTP://aviso.takomagov.org](http://aviso.takomagov.org). The Chief noted also that the department is also upgrading their Mobile Data Unit software. She announced also that four persons have been hired. Two are sworn and serving and two will graduate the University of Maryland Police Academy soon. Chief Creamer also noted that two officers have resigned the department.

She noted that TPPD's police cruiser fleet is very old and in need of replacement. Chief Creamer asked PSCAC to conduct a benefits survey that would include entry level salary, take home car program, retirement, and authorized shown strength of the

surveyed department. She also informed PSCAC that three positions are now available in the C-SAFE program.

Short Reports

Mike briefed PSCAC about his attendance at conference. He noted that he attended a lecture by the Institute of Law and Justice about homicide in D.C. This group looked at the data from a large number of homicides that was taken from police reports over a 20-year period. He noted that a most interesting fact from this presentation was that the motive for most homicides was argument and were not linked to gangs. Mike also noted that he learned that gang requirement is not as wide spread as most people think, it is, in fact, rather difficult for one to get into a gang. He noted that people's impression about a "crime wave" is not always based in fact.

Buddy announced that the Emergency Preparedness Committee seems to not be accomplishing a whole lot. He noted however, that a plan has been drafted and a mutual aid agreement have been drafted between all COG affiliates.

Andy noted that formal CERT training is being set up for January or February. This class is limited to thirty people.

Andy again urged PSCAC members to see the movie Dirty Bomb.

The meeting was adjourned at 2035hrs.